

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus adapted for automated handling, comprising:  
a plurality of syringe bodies, each comprising a barrel having a dispensing end and an opposing end, a plunger slidably disposed in the opposing end of the barrel, and a cap removably disposed on the dispensing end of the barrel, wherein a clean, contained volume is defined within the barrel between the plunger and the cap; and,

a flexible belt fixedly attached to each said barrel of said plurality of syringe bodies, wherein said plurality of syringe bodies are positionable in a predetermined orientation and at least one end of said dispensing end and said opposing end of each said barrel of said plurality of syringe bodies is accessible.

2. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein dispensing ends of the barrels of the plurality of syringe bodies extend in a common direction in said predetermined orientation.

3. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said belt defines a predetermined spacing between adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies.

4. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 3, wherein said predetermined spacing is substantially the same between each pair of adjacent ones of the plurality of syringe bodies.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said plurality of syringe bodies are aligned in side-by-side, series relation in said predetermined orientation.

6. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 5, wherein at least the barrels of the plurality of syringe bodies are of a common length, and wherein the belt is fixedly connected to the barrels along a common portion of the length of each.

7. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 5, wherein said belt is of a width that exceeds a majority of a length of each of the barrels comprising said plurality of syringe bodies.

8. (Previously Cancelled)

9. (Previously Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said belt comprises:

opposing layers adjoined in face-to-face relation between adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies and wrapped about opposing sides of the barrels of each of said plurality of syringe bodies.

10. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 9, wherein at least one of said opposing layers is substantially transparent.

11. (Previously Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 10, wherein said opposing layers are adhesively adjoined, and wherein at least one of the opposing layers is adhesively connected to the barrels of the plurality of syringe bodies.

12. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said belt is of a severable construction.

13. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 12, wherein said belt is of a predetermined length between adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies, said predetermined length being sufficient to define label flaps upon severance of the belt between said adjacent ones of the plurality of syringe bodies.

14. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 13, wherein said flaps are of predetermined length being sufficient for the placement of contents information thereupon.

15. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein said belt comprises:  
a first portion extending between adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies; and,  
a second portion that extends about at least a portion of the barrels of each of said plurality of syringe bodies.

16. (Original) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein at least said second portion of said belt is substantially transparent.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 17, wherein for each of said plurality of syringe bodies:

the dispensing end of the barrel includes a fluid port and an outer flange; and,

the cap includes an outer member matingly positionable within the outer flange of the barrel and an inner member matingly positionable about the fluid port of the barrel, wherein said cap is both removable from and replaceable on said dispensing end.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim ~~17~~1, wherein for each of said plurality of syringe bodies:

the dispensing end of the barrel includes a fluid port and an outer flange; and,

the cap includes an outer member matingly positionable about the outer flange of the barrel and an inner member matingly positionable within the fluid port of the barrel, wherein said cap is both removable from and replaceable on said dispensing end.

Claims 20-32 (previously cancelled)

Claims 33-78 (previously cancelled)

79. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 9, wherein at least one of said opposing layers is opaque.

80. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 79, wherein at least one of said opposing layers is provided for printing contents-related information thereon.

81. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 79, wherein said opaque layer is provided for printing contents-related information thereon.

82. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 14, wherein said flaps are provided for printing contents-related information thereupon.

83. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 82, wherein at least a portion of each said flap is opaque.

84. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein at least part of one of said first and second portions of said belt is opaque.

85. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 84, wherein said opaque part of said belt is provided for printing contents-related information thereon.

86. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 85, wherein said opaque part of said belt extends between adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies.

87. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 84, further comprising:  
sheet labels affixed to said belt between each of said plurality of syringe bodies.

88. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 87, wherein said sheet labels are provided for printing content-related information thereon.

89. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 87, wherein said belt comprises opposing layers adjoined in a face to face relationship, wherein said sheet labels are sandwiched between said opposing layers.

90. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 89, wherein at least one of said opposing layers is substantially transparent.

91. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 171, wherein for each of said plurality of syringe bodies, a sterile, contained volume is defined within said barrel between the plunger and the cap.

92. (Currently Amended) An apparatus adapted for automated handling, comprising:  
a plurality of syringe bodies each comprising: a barrel having a dispensing end and an opposing end; a cap removably and replacably disposed on the dispensing end of the barrel; and, a plunger slidably disposed in the opposing end of the barrel, wherein for each of said plurality of syringe bodies a clean, contained volume is defined within said barrel between the plunger and cap, and;

a flexible belt fixedly attached to each said barrel of said plurality of syringe bodies, wherein said plurality of syringe bodies are positionable in a predetermined orientation and at least one end of each said barrel of said plurality of syringe bodies is accessible, wherein said belt is of a predetermined length between adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies, said predetermined length being sufficient to define label flaps upon severance of the belt between said adjacent ones of the plurality of syringe bodies, and wherein at least one surface of each said predetermined length of said belt is adapted for printing contents-related information thereon.

93. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 92, wherein for each of said plurality of syringe bodies a sterile, contained volume is defined within said barrel between the plunger and cap.

94. (Previously Added) An apparatus as recited in Claim 92, wherein for each of said plurality of syringe bodies:

the dispensing end of the barrel includes a fluid port and an outer flange; and,

the cap includes an outer member matingly positionable within the outer flange of the barrel and an inner member matingly positionable about the fluid port of the barrel.